

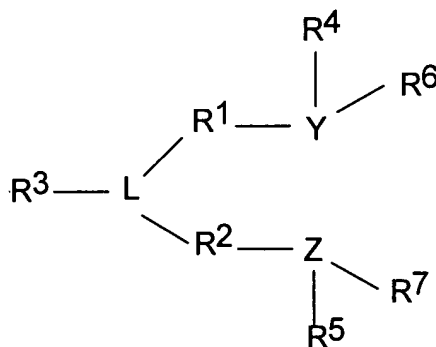
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method to prepare a metal compound comprising reacting a neutral ligand with a compound represented by the formula M^nX_n where M is a group 3-14 metal, n is the oxidation state of M, and X is an anionic group in a non-coordinating or weakly coordinating solvent, at about 20 to about 100 °C, then treating the mixture with an excess of an alkylating agent, then recovering the metal complex; and wherein the neutral ligand is represented by the formula:



where Y is a group 15 element,

Z is a group 15 element,

L is a group 15 or 16 element,

R¹ and R² are independently a C₁ to C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, a heteroatom containing group, silicon, germanium, tin, lead, or phosphorus,

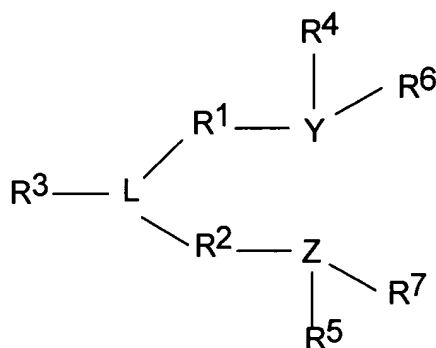
R¹ and R² may be interconnected to each other.

R³ is absent, hydrogen, a group 14 atom containing group, a halogen, or a heteroatom containing group.

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, a cyclic alkyl group, a substituted cyclic alkyl group, or a multiple ring system.

R⁶ and R⁷ are independently absent, hydrogen, halogen, a heteroatom, a hydrocarbyl group, or a heteroatom containing group.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the solvent has a boiling point above 60 °C.
32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the solvent is ether, toluene, xylene, benzene, methylene chloride and/or hexane.
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Once Amended) A method to prepare a metal adduct comprising reacting a neutral ligand with a compound represented by the formula MⁿX_n where M is Zr or Hf, n is the oxidation state of M, X is a halogen in a non-coordinating or weakly coordinating solvent, at 20°C or more, then recovering the metal adduct; and wherein the neutral ligand is represented by the formula:



where Y is a group 15 element,

Z is a group 15 element,

L is a group 15 or 16 element,

R¹ and R² are independently a C₁ to C₂₀ hydrocarbon group, a heteroatom containing group, silicon, germanium, tin, lead, or phosphorus,

R¹ and R² may be interconnected to each other,

R³ is absent, hydrogen, a group 14 atom containing group, a halogen, or a heteroatom containing group,

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, a cyclic alkyl group, a substituted cyclic alkyl group, or a multiple ring system,

R⁶ and R⁷ are independently absent, hydrogen, halogen, a heteroatom, a hydrocarbyl group, or a heteroatom containing group.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Amended) A reaction product of a neutral ligand reacted with a compound represented by the formula MⁿX_n where M is Zr or Hf, n is the oxidation state of M, X is an anionic leaving group, in a non-coordinating or weakly coordinating solvent at about 20 to about 100 °C.

37-52 (Cancelled)